

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method of improving a barrier effect on skin comprising applying an effective amount of an active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal, associated with any adapted cosmetic galenical form.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the application makes possible an improvement of the synthesis of involucrin on the skin.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the application makes possible an improvement of the synthesis of profilaggrin on the skin.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the application promotes synthesis of cadherin-E on the skin.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the application increases synthesis of the ceramides on a horny layer.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the application makes it possible to increase expression of enzymes for synthesis of lipids.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the application makes possible a reduction in activity of the glycoproteins of the family of desmosomal cadherins so as to promote exfoliation.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the application makes possible a reduction of negligible water loss.

9-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) ~~Active ingredient obtained according to the process of claim 9,~~ The method of claim 1, wherein said active ingredient is characterized by the following parameters:

- Level of dry material of between 10 and 300 g/l,
- pH of between 4.0 and 8.0
- Total sugar content of between 9 and 275 g/l, and
- Presence of three glucide fractions:
  - o Polysaccharide fraction:  
rhamnogalacturonan
  - o Oligosaccharide fraction with a high degree of polymerization and free uronic acids, and
  - o A mono- and oligosaccharide fraction of a low degree of polymerization.

13. (currently amended) ~~Active ingredient that is obtained according to the process of claim 9,~~ The method of claim 1, wherein said active ingredient is characterized by the following parameters:

- Level of dry material of between 80 and 120 g/l,
- pH of between 5.0 and 6.0,
- Total sugar content of between 72 and 110 g/l.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cosmetic galenical form is one selected from the group consisting of an aqueous emulsion, an alcoholic emulsion, a lotion, a cream with an aqueous base, a cream with a fatty base, and an ointment.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the lipids consist of at least one selected from the group consisting of the fatty acid synthase, serine palmitoyl transferase, and the synthesis of epidermal lipids on the skin.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the application reduces the negligible water loss by increasing the activity of the chymotrysin stratum corneum enzyme.

17. (canceled)